

# GIGABYTE

GIG International School,  
Singapore, E-Newsletter

November-December 2021



## From the Principal's Desk

We've reached the point of the year and now is the time to look at strategies for success in those areas perceived as needing an extra lift so that we can score the high-end results we all want our learners to attain by the close of 2021-22.

Today, I'd like to write about raising standards of written and spoken English.

All the evidence says that the most effective way to strengthen vocabulary, grammar and sentence construction is through wide reading and I'm very glad to say the new readers for the Library will be arriving soon. The plan is that access to a wide range of titles will promote learners' levels of understanding, critical appreciation and overall enthusiasm for different literary genres and we'll also introduce a structured reading programme that will assess precisely these aptitudes. Further, I cannot

overstress the importance of vocabulary building: English boasts the largest of dictionaries as it is blessed with at least five root languages that reflect the different peoples who invaded the British Isles over a relatively short period. You might be speaking words of Celtic, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norse (Viking) or Norman French origin, even in the same sentence, giving you the same means of precise expression that were at the disposal of The Greats such as Shakespeare, Jane Austen or George Orwell.

To help with vocabulary acquisition, I will be encouraging all learners to maintain their own personal dictionary wherein they record all new words and their meanings, expressed in a few sample sentences to demonstrate confidence in use. A wide and precise vocabulary will determine how we fare in many academic subjects - not just English - and also shape our lives by helping us to land the prize job, attract the right friends and even help steer us through some of the tricky situations in life: there's no doubt about it - Word Are Power!

**Robin Hamilton, Principal**

# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## BLUE RIBBON AWARD

We at GIG International School take great pride in the teacher community that we have nurtured over the past couple of years. With regular professional development seminars and conferences, we strive to achieve excellence through the teachers. And we are delighted to announce that two of our teachers Ms Prachita and Ms Swati were awarded the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award by The Sony Creative Science Award.

Initiated in 2005, the Blue ribbon award acknowledges the unwavering commitment and involvement of the teachers in guiding and mentoring the students through their toy making journey. The hard work and resilience demonstrated by our teachers to guide the students is indeed noteworthy. We take a moment to thank all our teachers who take the extra mile each day to make sure the students are learning and growing to become successful citizens of tomorrow!



## DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

This year we celebrated our traditions of hope and togetherness while continuing to stay apart. We at GIG, found new ways of celebrating and sharing the joy.

The Students, teachers and administration team celebrated the festival of lights in its most authentic essence by sharing and exchanging greetings and sweets. We also created beautiful rangoli to add some colours to the festivities. Here are a few glimpses from the Diwali Celebrations.



# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## CHESS

The 62<sup>nd</sup> National Inter-School Team Virtual Chess Tournament happened from Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December to Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, from morning 8.30 am to evening 5.30 pm. Students from GIG had participated in the tournament and learnt various techniques and values like time management, how to stay focused for longer periods. This has also proved to be a very fruitful experience as it provided them with exposure to how such a large-scale competition takes place.

With 35 teams participating in the Under 8 Category, GIG students had placed at the 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> rankings as a team.

Nirek Surana from 3C had achieved the second position under the board rankings based on individual scoring.

With 60 teams participating in the Under 10 category, GIG students had placed at the 27<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> rankings as a team.

Lakshith Raj from 5B had achieved the ninth position under the board rankings based on individual scoring.

With 72 teams participating in the Under 12 category, GIG students had placed at the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> rankings as a team.



**Nirek Surana 3C**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> position**



**Lakshith Raj 5B**  
**9<sup>th</sup> position**

# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas is celebrated around the world differently. It is all about spreading joy and love. We at GIG International School organised a fun-filled Christmas celebration at school. Be it covid, be it Pandemic, our celebrations never cease. The day started with children wishing their friends and exchanging a smile of thanks as a kind gesture. Children were dressed in Christmas colours to spread positivity. Throughout the day, the students and teachers visited the Christmas booth and participated in hurdles activity for a fun photoshoot. Lastly, a special movie session, The Christmas Chronicles was organised for the kids to enjoy and say goodbye to their friends for the holidays.



# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

## LIVE TO LEARN

Are you a life-long learner?  
Stay curious always for sure  
Grow your knowledge treasure  
It will give you much pleasure  
As it is always in our nature  
Not just to know but be mature  
Speaking with others at leisure  
In social media or a YouTuber  
Which serve as virtual teacher  
Stored enlightenment to gather  
Not just for now but for forever  
Life-long till old age to savour!  
Your life as a knowledge seeker  
Not just a certificate collector  
Ultimately makes you brainier  
Even spiritually much stronger  
Be not just ordinary but super;  
A novice too can be a master  
So plan well your future  
Keep on learning to be smarter!



Written on 12/5/21  
By Dr Siva Mahendran

# NEW MEMBERS ON BOARD

With the onset of the new year, we are happy to introduce some new faces within the Campus. We are delighted to welcome five new teachers.



**MR. GAVIN GOMEZ** graduated from the University of North London, UK, with a first class honours degree in Maths and since then has gained over 20 years' International School Experience in South East Asia, teaching Mathematics to all levels from Primary through to Tertiary. His most recent position was as Principal at King's International School, Myanmar, where he also taught IGCSE Mathematics for almost a decade. Mr. Gomez joined GIGIS as the Head of Department, Mathematics.



**DR SIVA MAHENDRAN**, Head of Department English is a professionally qualified counsellor, workplace English literacy trainer and adult educator for Workforce Singapore (WSG). He has taught the English language to all levels of students, primary to tertiary, for over 35 years. A Commendation Award recipient for distinguished service, loyalty, and dedication to a learning institute, a student mentor at the Nanyang Technological University, a Review Member for the International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews, External Academic Advisor to Manipal GlobalNXT University, Fellow member of the Scholars Academic and Scientific Society, he has presented academic research papers extensively, locally and internationally. He has had a plethora of knowledge working with IGCSE students.

# NEW MEMBERS ON BOARD

## MR MOHAMED

**SHAIK FAIZAL** S/O Saburulla was Conferred an Honours degree in Political Science from the National University of Singapore, Faizal has been teaching English at both lower and upper grades for several years. Faizal customises his teaching methodology to ensure that there is sufficient scaffolding and modelling. He employs various techniques to meet the varying needs of his students, allowing them to develop confidence in the subject. He invites his students to discuss and debate the lessons to keep them enthusiastic about learning the language. When he is not busy enriching young minds, this die-hard Manchester United Football Club fan is out and about satiating his shutterbug side.



**MINU KRISHNA KUMAR** holds a Masters Degree in Science (Mathematics) from the University of Madras and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana. She has several years of teaching experience at the primary level at International schools in Gurugram, India and Singapore handling multiple curricula. Minu enjoys listening, talking, and interacting with children in general and that is what drives her passion for teaching primary school children. She believes that learning is going to be a lifelong process and so kids must enjoy the experience from the early years



**MONA ARORA**, With a teaching experience of 14 years in an International school setting, Bachelors in Sociology from the University of Mumbai, India, Post Graduate Diploma in Pre-Primary Teacher Training from Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning, Pune, India, Apple-certified teacher and has an IB Professional development course of PYP-Making the PYP happen: Implementing agency Cat 1. A sincere and dedicated teacher with a great deal of knowledge and skills as well as a passion and enthusiasm for working with children and teaching in the area of primary school education.



# ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

We at GIG International School are extremely happy to announce that our Managing

Director **MR. GSS RAO** is back at our Singapore Campus. Having been struck in India for the last two year for personal reasons, the students and teachers missed his physical presence in the campus. Mr. Rao has over 35 years of experience as an Educator and is the key force behind establishing and managing GIG International. He supervises the academics and operations of the school. We are glad to have him back in the campus.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank

**MS. GITA CHEERATH**, our Supervisor for the Cambridge Lower Secondary Program for her dedication and commitment towards Education. Over her years of association with GIG International, she has garnered love and respect from her students and colleagues alike. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.





# STAR STUDENTS

## NOVEMBER

**Class 1A**  
Vedansh  
Mekala

**Class 2A**  
Naina Dadlani

**Class 2B**  
Naga Sanjana  
Nettalam

**Class 2C**  
Hridya

**Class 3A**  
UmmeHani Ali

**Class 3B**  
Daysha Jatana

**Class 3C**  
Sai Darshana  
Kartik

**Class 4A**  
Vedant Chavan

**Class 4B**  
Risha Ray

**Class 5A**  
Anastasiya Shauliak

**Class 5B**  
Vishnu Kura Chekith